CREATURES ON THE LOOSE

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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# CREATURES ON THE LOOSE™

FEATURING

# THONGOR™

## WARRIOR OF LOST LEMURIA

## DOOM OF THE SERPENT GODS!

NOW STRIKES THONGOR-- OR ELSE THE WOMAN DIES!

SWORD VS. SORCERY IN THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT!!!

FAMOUS NAME

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GARDNER F. FOX . VAL MAYERICK . WAYNE HOWARD . CHARLOTTE JETTER . PETRA G. . ROY THOMAS
WRITER ARTIST INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR

# TOWER OF THE SERPENT-WOMEN!!

HAVING FLED FROM CIVILIZED THURDIS IN OOLIM PHON'S SKY SHIP AND CRASHED IN THE JUNGLES OF CHUSH, THONGOR IS NOW THE GUEST OF THE WIZARD SHARAJSHA--WHO HAS REVEALED TO THE WARRIOR A DIRE PROPHECY!
LOOK, THONGOR! SEE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD, A DOOM THAT IS FAR CLOSER THAN YOU DREAM!
CURSE YOUR VISIONS OF RAVAGED CITIES, WIZARD! WHAT OF THE OTHER PREDICTION YOUR DAMNABLE MIRROR MAKES--
--MY DEATH!
ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL THONGOR AND THE WIZARD OF LEMURIA BY LIN CARTER, CREATOR OF THONGOR.

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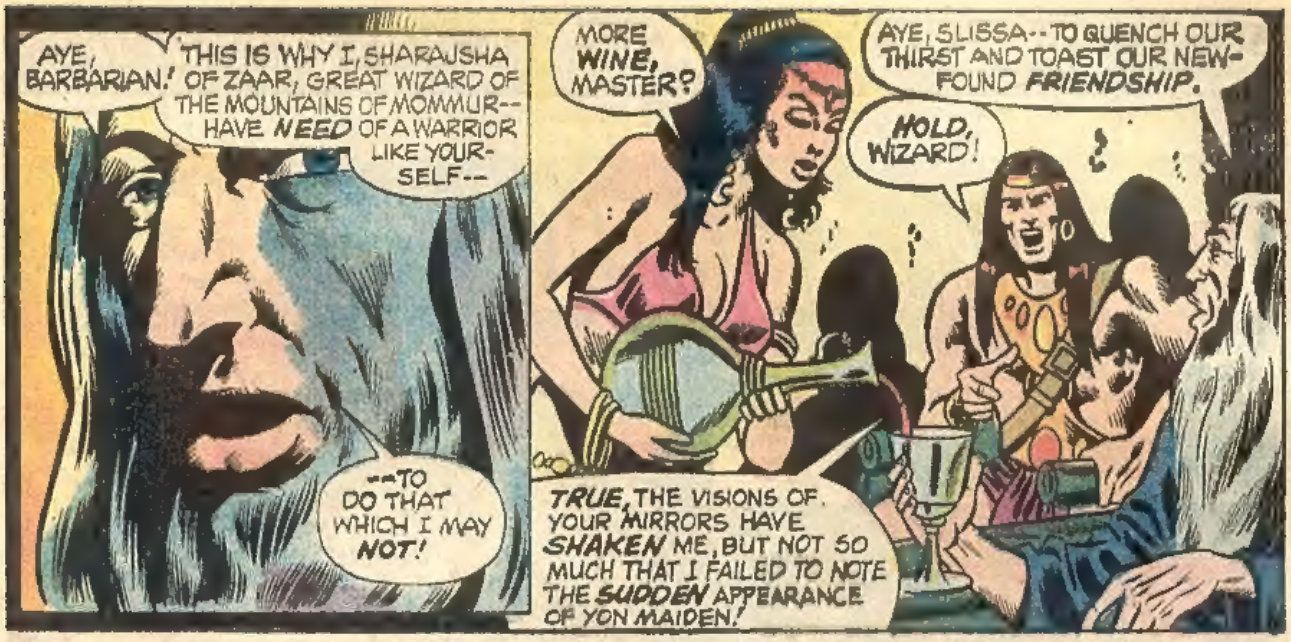
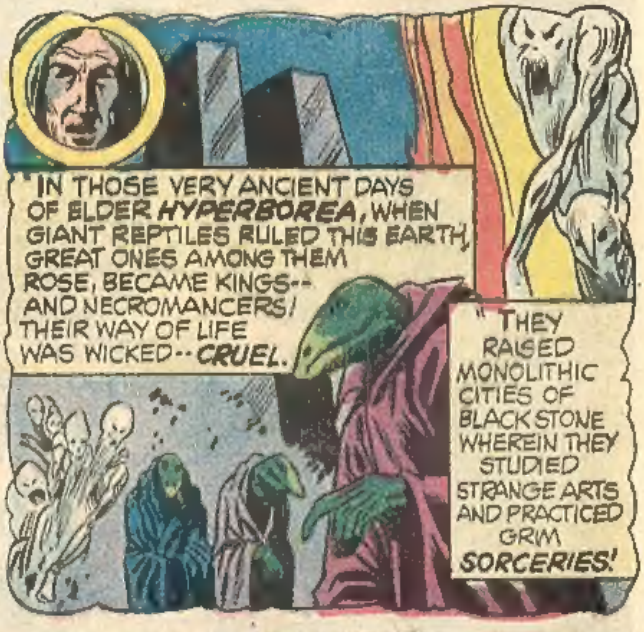
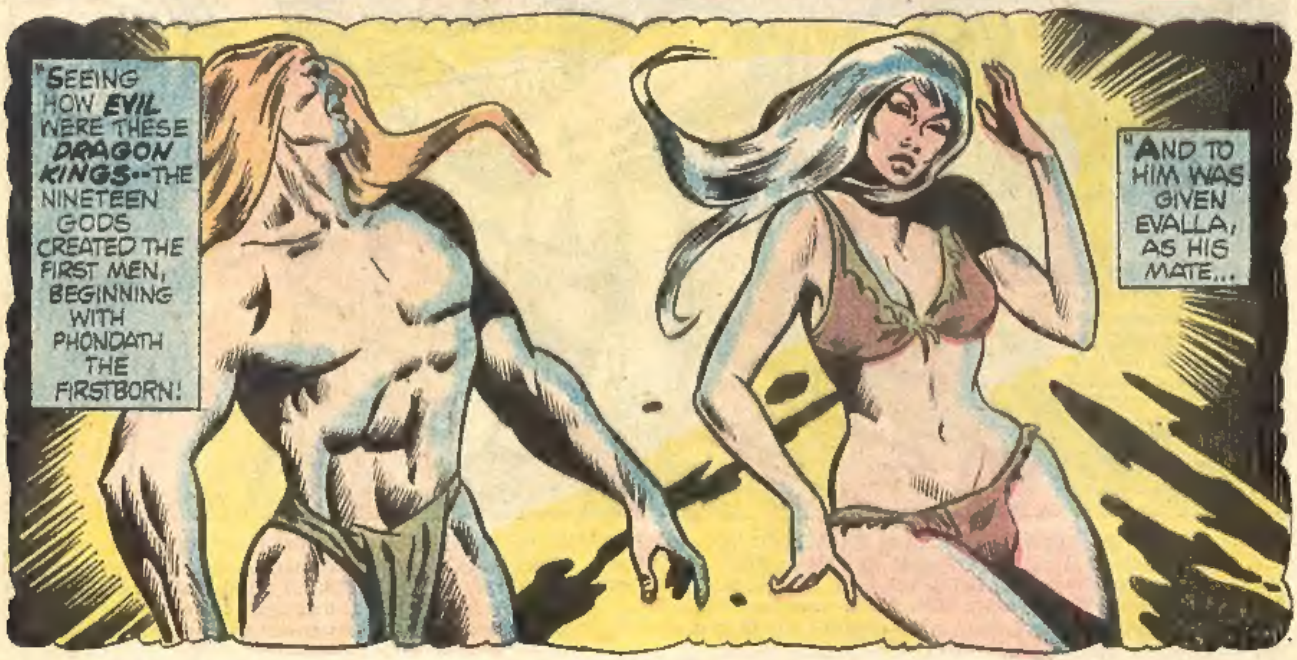

AYE, BARBARIAN!
THIS IS WHY I, SHARAUSHA OF ZAAR, GREAT WIZARD OF THE MOUNTAINS OF MOMMUR--HAVE NEED OF A WARRIOR LIKE YOURSELF--
--TO DO THAT WHICH I MAY NOT!
MORE WINE, MASTER?
AYE, SLISSA--TO QUENCH OUR THIRST AND TOAST OUR NEW-FOUND FRIENDSHIP.
HOLD, WIZARD!
TRUE, THE VISIONS OF YOUR MIRRORS HAVE SHAKEN ME, BUT NOT SO MUCH THAT I FAILED TO NOTE THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF YON MAIDEN!

DID YOU THINK ALL MY SERVANTS WERE AS INVISIBLE AS THOSE YOU ENCOUNTERED PREVIOUSLY?
NOW, CALM YOURSELF, THONGOR BECAUSE I DESPERATELY NEED YOUR HELP--
--AND SO WILL EXPLAIN ALL YOU HAVE SEEN IN MY MIRROR!


"IN THOSE VERY ANCIENT DAYS OF ELDER HYPERBOREA, WHEN GIANT REPTILES RULED THIS EARTH, GREAT ONES AMONG THEM ROSE, BECAME KINGS--AND NECROMANCERS! THEIR WAY OF LIFE WAS WICKED--CRUEL.
"THEY RAISED MONOLITHIC CITIES OF BLACK STONE WHEREIN THEY STUDIED STRANGE ARTS AND PRACTICED GRIM SORCERIES!


"SEEING HOW EVIL WERE THESE DRAGON KINGS--THE NINETEEN GODS CREATED THE FIRST MEN, BEGINNING WITH PHONDATH THE FIRSTBORN!
"AND TO HIM WAS GIVEN EVALLA, AS HIS MATE...

SO MEN BUILT NEMEDIS, THE FIRST CITY--AND FOUGHT THE DRAGON KINGS FOR DOMINANCE OF LEMURIA!
SLAY THE SCALY ONES!
LET THEM DIE AS THEY WOULD HAVE US DIE!
"THUS BEGAN THE THOUSAND YEAR WAR!
THEY ARE TOO BIG!
IT NEEDS TOO MANY OF US TO BRING DOWN EVEN ONE OF THEM!
"AND SO AT FIRST THE DRAGON KINGS WERE SUCCESSFUL--AND MEN HID BEHIND THE WALLS OF THEIR CITIES--IN NEMEDIS AND ALTHAAR, IN YB AND YAODAR!
FATHER GORM --SAVE US FROM THEIR FANGS.
SAVE US, YOUR CHILDREN!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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M-234

M-519

M-535

M-571

M-219

M-511

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## HOW I CHANGED FROM A "MOUSE" TO A MAN!

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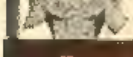
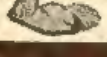


**BIG ARM MUSCLES?** You'll see and feel your arm muscles BULGE out with super power and energy.



**TIRELESS LEGS?** I make your legs strong and powerful with the tireless drive of a long distance runner.

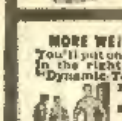


**MAGNETIC PERSONALITY?** "Dynamic-Tension" makes you alive with vitality — the husky that men respect and women admire.



**BROAD SHOULDERS?** "Dynamic-Tension" will broaden your shoulders. You'll see and feel results in 7 DAYS!

**MORE WEIGHT?** You'll put on pounds in the right places, "Dynamic-Tension" rebuilds you inside and out.



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- ☐ BIG ARM MUSCLES
- ☐ BROAD BACK & SHOULDERS
- ☐ TIRELESS LEGS
- ☐ MORE WEIGHT
- ☐ MAGNETIC PERSONALITY

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CHARLES ATLAS ON TV

# THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF 'MAC'

HEY! QUIT KICKING THAT SAND IN OUR FACES!
THAT MAN IS THE WORST NUISANCE ON THE BEACH
LISTEN HERE, I'D SMASH YOUR FACE — ONLY YOU'RE SO SKINNY YOU MIGHT DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY
THE BIG BULLY! I'LL GET EVEN SOME DAY
OH DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, LITTLE BOY!
DARN IT! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING A SCARECROW! CHARLES ATLAS SAYS HE CAN GIVE ME A REAL BODY. ALL RIGHT! I'LL GAMBLE A STAMP AND GET HIS FREE BOOK!
BOY! IT DIDN'T TAKE ATLAS LONG TO DO THIS FOR ME! WHAT MUSCLES! THAT BULLY WON'T SHOVE ME AROUND AGAIN!
THERE'S THAT BIG STIFF AGAIN SHOWING OFF IN FRONT OF GRACE AND THE CROWD. WELL, IT'S MY TURN ... THIS TIME!
WHAM! — NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!
OH, MAC! YOU ARE A REAL MAN AFTER ALL!

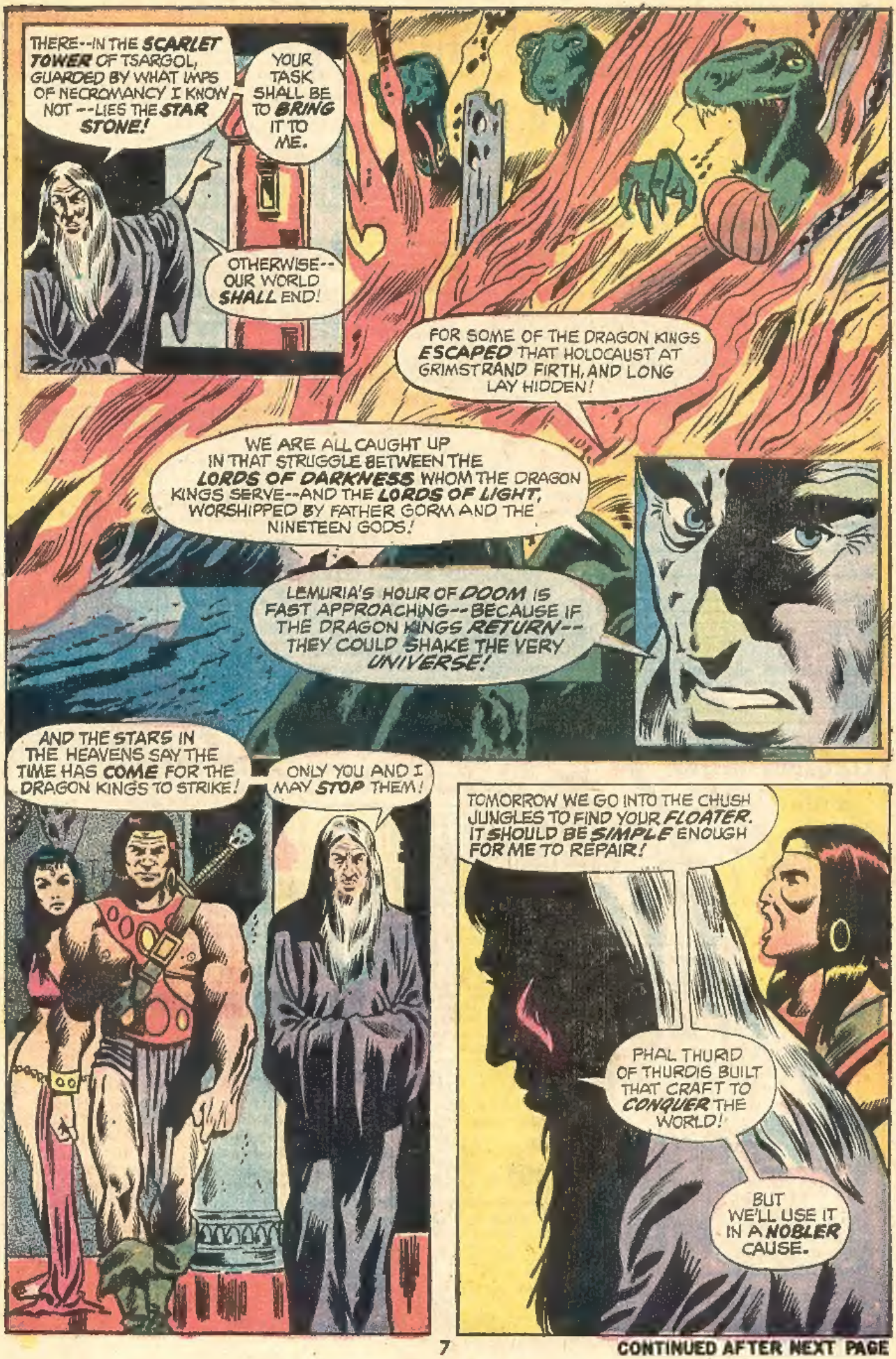
"AND THEN--ONE NIGHT IN A MIGHTY STORM WHEREIN THE SKY RAINED DOWN TORRENTS OF LIGHTNING --FATHER GORM APPEARED TO THE LORD THUNGARTH O'ER THE WALLS OF NEMEDIS...
ALONE, YOU CAN NEVER DEFEAT THE DRAGON KINGS, MY CHILD!
FATHER GORM--YOU HEARD OUR PLEA!

BEHOLD -- THE STAR SWORD!
IN ITS STEEL-THE POWERS OF THE NINETEEN GODS HAVE BEEN SEALED FOR ALL ETERNITY!
USE IT--TO DEFEAT THE DRAGON KINGS!

"AND SO AT GRIMSTRAND FIRTH, THUNGARTH AND THE STAR SWORD SHATTERED THE DRAGON KINGS! YET, IN THAT LAST BATTLE, MIGHTY THUNGARTH DIED, THE BROKEN STAR SWORD IN HIS HAND!"
FATHER GORM CALLS ME.
THE STAR SWORD IS NO MORE, AND NEITHER AM--
--I!

A STIRRING TALE, WIZARD!
BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU--WITH ALL YOUR MAGICAL POWERS--NEED A SWORDSMAN!
I NEED YOU--TO HELP ME CREATE ANOTHER STAR SWORD!

BUT THE STAR SWORD IS BROKEN! LOST FOREVER!
YOU SAID SO YOURSELF!
AYE! BUT THE STAR STONE OUT OF WHICH THE STAR SWORD WAS FORGED--STILL EXISTS!


THERE--IN THE SCARLET TOWER OF TSARGOL, GUARDED BY WHAT IMPS OF NECROMANCY I KNOW NOT --LIES THE STAR STONE!
YOUR TASK SHALL BE TO BRING IT TO ME.
OTHERWISE--OUR WORLD SHALL END!
FOR SOME OF THE DRAGON KINGS ESCAPED THAT HOLOCAUST AT GRIMSTRAND FIRTH, AND LONG LAY HIDDEN!
WE ARE ALL CAUGHT UP IN THAT STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE LORDS OF DARKNESS WHOM THE DRAGON KINGS SERVE--AND THE LORDS OF LIGHT, WORSHIPPED BY FATHER GORM AND THE NINETEEN GODS!
LEMURIA'S HOUR OF DOOM IS FAST APPROACHING--BECAUSE IF THE DRAGON KINGS RETURN--THEY COULD SHAKE THE VERY UNIVERSE!
AND THE STARS IN THE HEAVENS SAY THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE DRAGON KINGS TO STRIKE!
ONLY YOU AND I MAY STOP THEM!
TOMORROW WE GO INTO THE CHUSH JUNGLES TO FIND YOUR FLOATER. IT SHOULD BE SIMPLE ENOUGH FOR ME TO REPAIR!
PHAL THURID OF THURDIS BUILT THAT CRAFT TO CONQUER THE WORLD!
BUT WE'LL USE IT IN A NOBLER CAUSE.



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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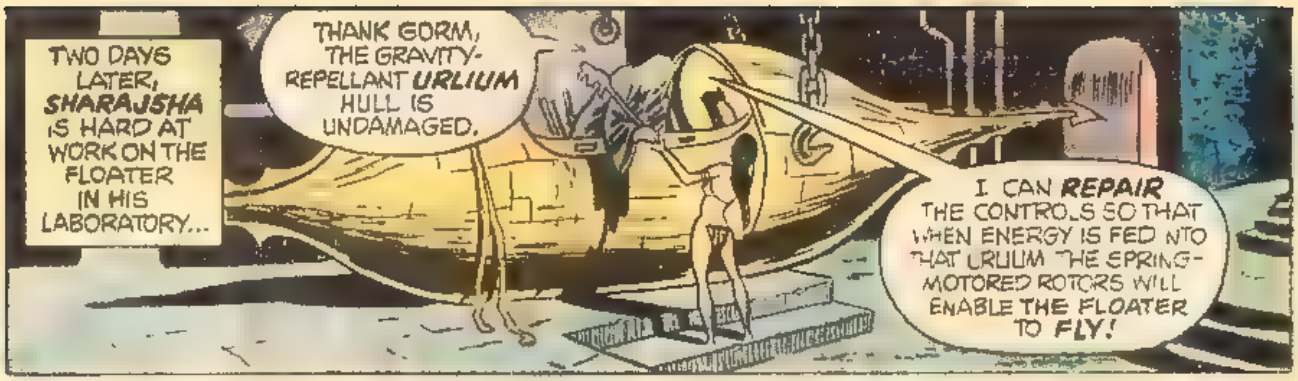
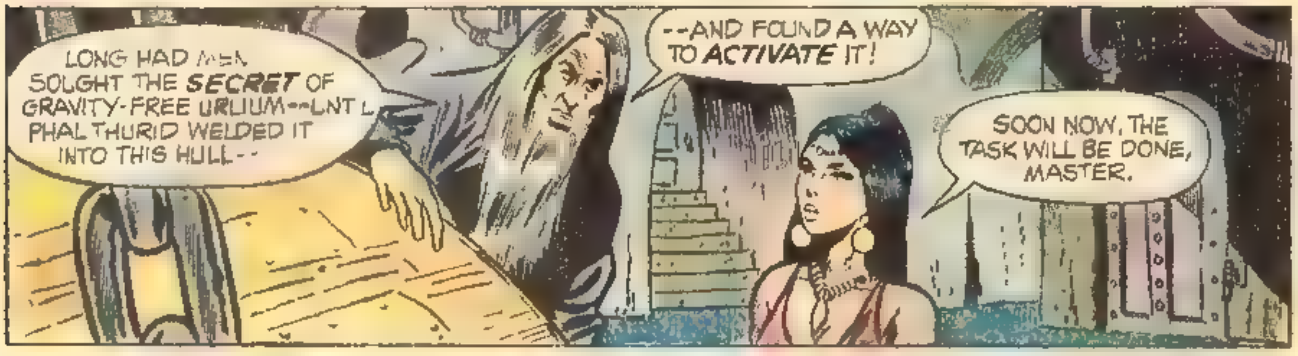
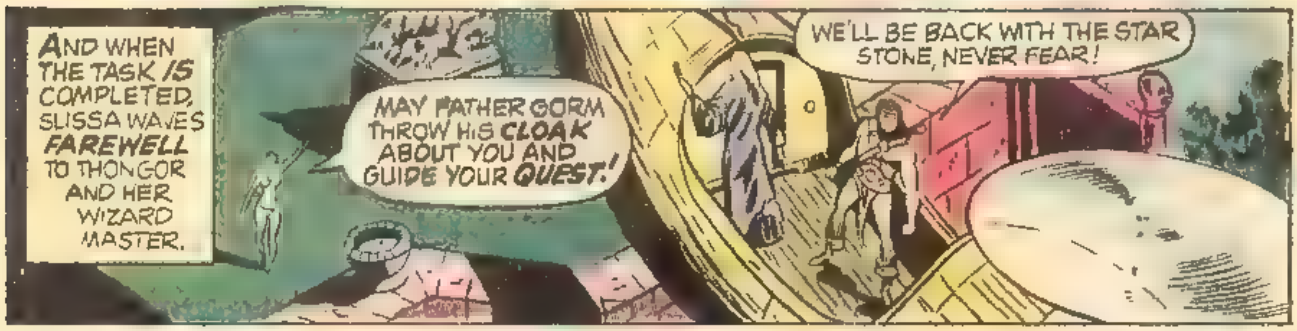
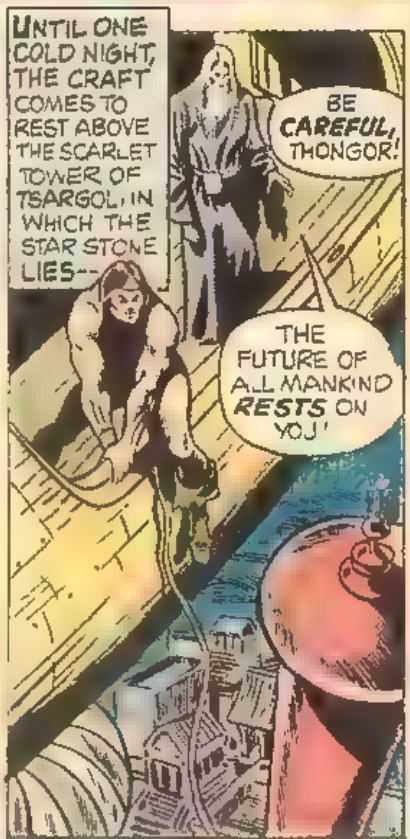
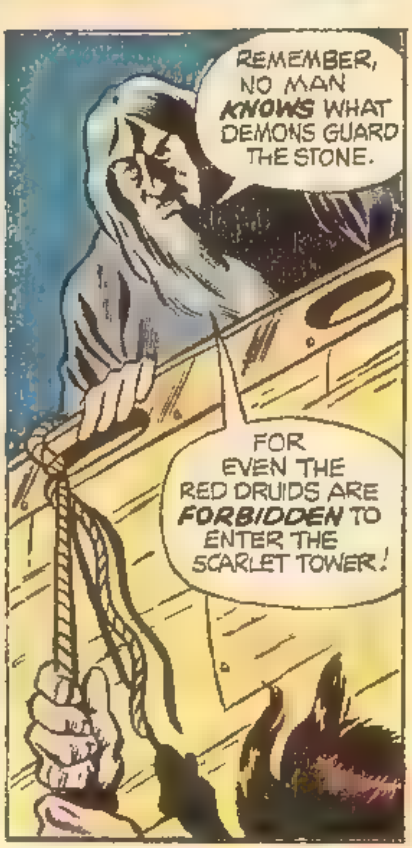

TWO DAYS LATER, SHARAJSHA IS HARD AT WORK ON THE FLOATER IN HIS LABORATORY...
THANK GORM, THE GRAVITY-REPELLANT URLIUM HULL IS UNDAMAGED.
I CAN REPAIR THE CONTROLS SO THAT WHEN ENERGY IS FED INTO THAT URLIUM THE SPRING-MOTORED ROTORS WILL ENABLE THE FLOATER TO FLY!


LONG HAD MEN SOUGHT THE SECRET OF GRAVITY-FREE URLIUM--UNTIL PHAL THURID WELDED IT INTO THIS HULL--
--AND FOUND A WAY TO ACTIVATE IT!
SOON NOW, THE TASK WILL BE DONE, MASTER.


AND WHEN THE TASK IS COMPLETED, SLISSA WAVES FAREWELL TO THONGOR AND HER WIZARD MASTER.
MAY FATHER GORM THROW HIS CLOAK ABOUT YOU AND GUIDE YOUR QUEST!
WE'LL BE BACK WITH THE STAR STONE, NEVER FEAR!

ACROSS VAST PLAINS AND OVER HIGH MOUNTAINS FLOATS THE CRAFT OF PHAL THURID, NOW CHRISTENED NEMEDIS...
BY THE NINETEEN GODS, THIS IS A FAIR LAND.
AYE, ONE WHICH THE DRAGON KINGS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO DESTROY.


UNTIL ONE COLD NIGHT, THE CRAFT COMES TO REST ABOVE THE SCARLET TOWER OF TSARGOL, IN WHICH THE STAR STONE LIES--
BE CAREFUL, THONGOR!
THE FUTURE OF ALL MANKIND RESTS ON YOU!


REMEMBER, NO MAN KNOWS WHAT DEMONS GUARD THE STONE.
FOR EVEN THE RED DRUIDS ARE FORBIDDEN TO ENTER THE SCARLET TOWER!

I CAN REACH THAT WINDOW-- BY SWINGING MYSELF LIKE A PENDULUM.
,F I DON'T SLIP FROM THE CABLE FIRST.
BY THE SNOWS OF VALKARTH! I LIKE THIS PLACE NOT!
IT'S TOO-- QUIET!
NOT A BREATH OF A R STIRS!
AND I SENSE --EVIL!
AWFLL EVIL--WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO POUNCE.
RAASP
GORM!
WHAT S THAT ?
A--SLORG!
BUT THOSE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EASTERN LEMURIAN DESERT HAVE BEEN EXTINCT FOR AGES!
THEY'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO EXIST ANY MORE!
HAI!
SHOT!
THIS ONE EXISTS--AND HURTS!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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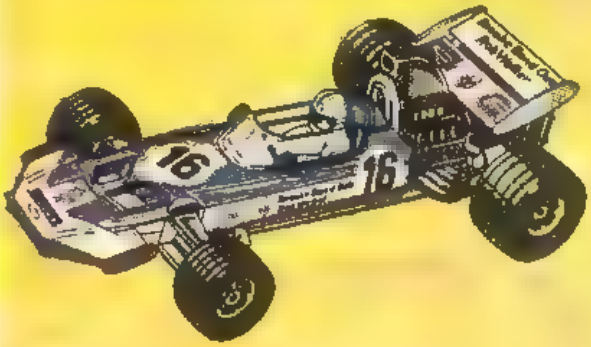

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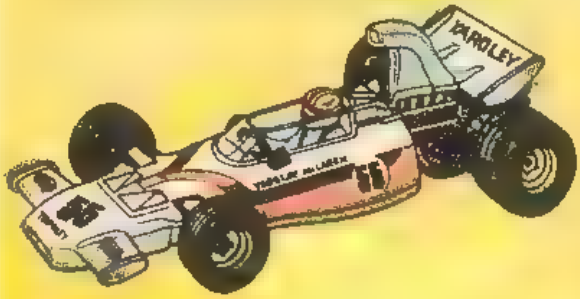


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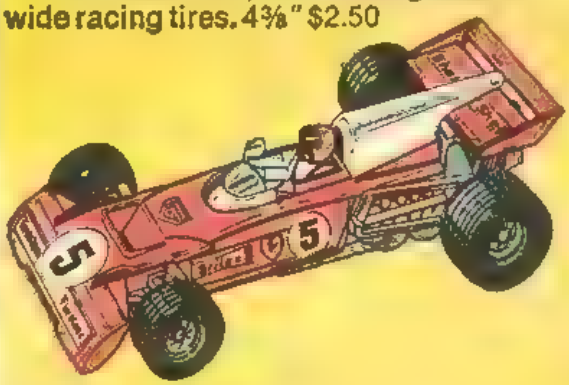

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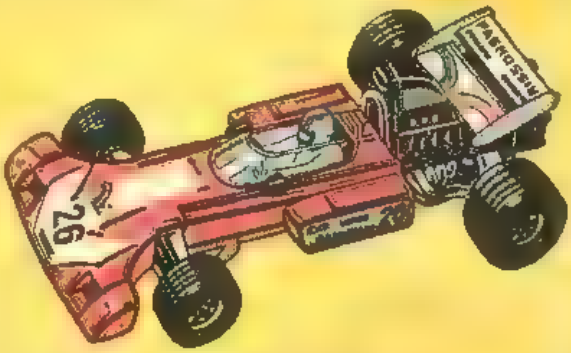

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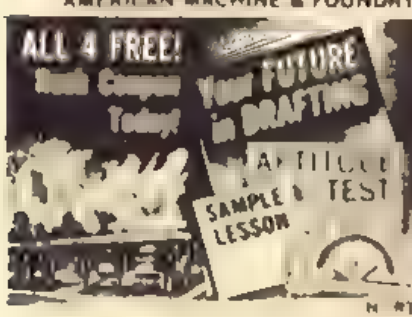


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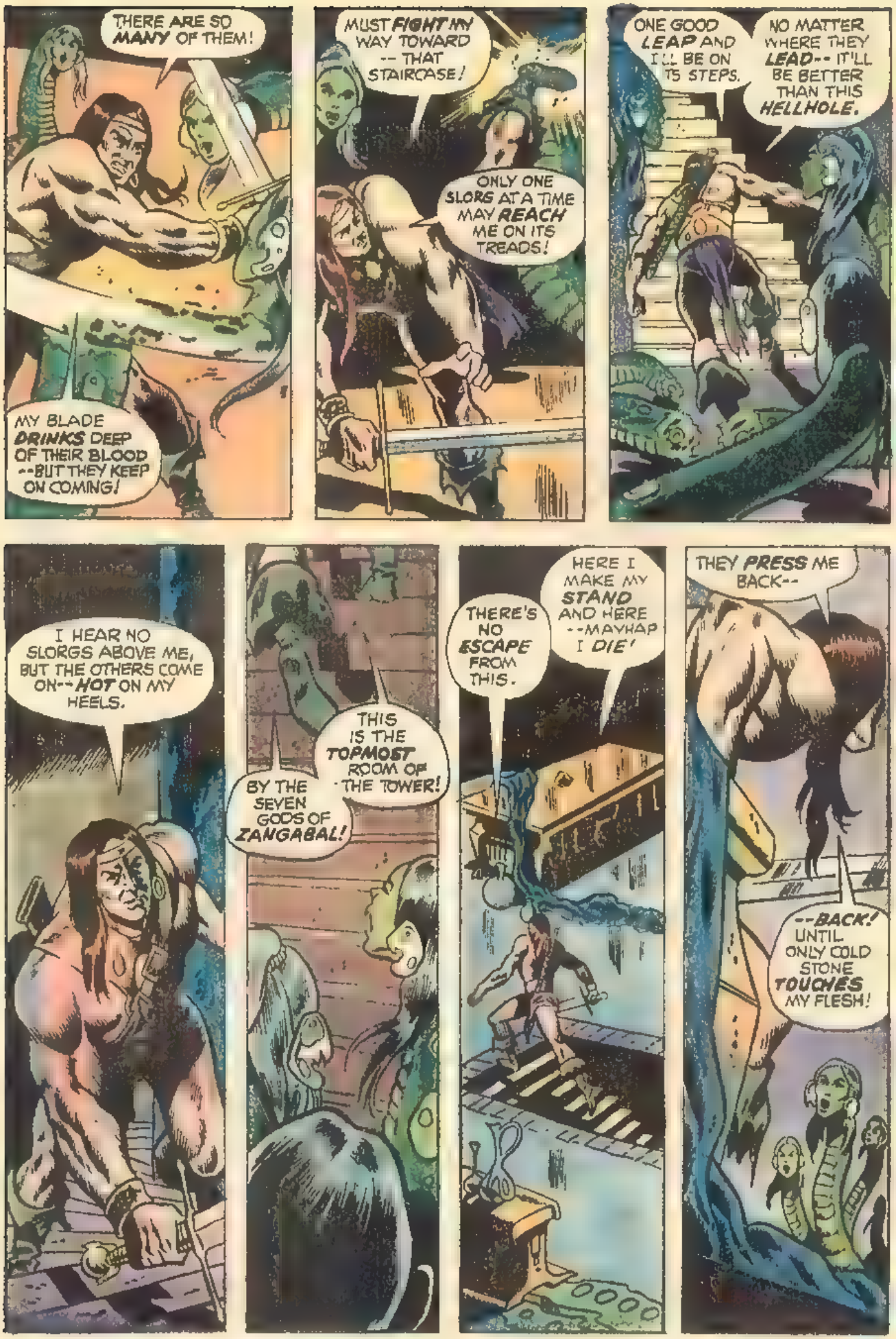
HSSSS
I HOPE OLD FATHER GORM WILL GUIDE ME--
--FOR I'M FAIRLY TRAPPED!
NAUSEA FILLS THE GUT OF THE VALKARTHAN! HIS BARBARIC BLOOD ALMOST FREEZES IN HIS VEINS...
FAUGH!
THEY STINK OF REPTILIAN SLIME!
BUT I'M NO CITY-BRED THIEF TO STAND SHAKING IN MY BOOTS!
NO, BY THE NINETEEN GODS!
I--FIGHT BACK!
THE GREAT BLADE SARKOZAN CLEAVES THE AIR AND SLASHES THROUGH REPTILIAN SCALES AND FLESH...
FETID SLIME OOZES FROM RAGGED CUTS! AND THE SLORGS HISS OUT THEIR PROTEST...
..TO LITTLE AVAIL!
THEY MOVE SLUGGISHLY--
--GIVING ME A CHANCE TO USE MY STEEL!


THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM!
MY BLADE DRINKS DEEP OF THEIR BLOOD --BUT THEY KEEP ON COMING!
MUST FIGHT MY WAY TOWARD -- THAT STAIRCASE!
ONLY ONE SLORG AT A TIME MAY REACH ME ON ITS TREADS!
ONE GOOD LEAP AND I'LL BE ON ITS STEPS.
NO MATTER WHERE THEY LEAD-- IT'LL BE BETTER THAN THIS HELLHOLE.
I HEAR NO SLORGS ABOVE ME, BUT THE OTHERS COME ON--HOT ON MY HEELS.
BY THE SEVEN GODS OF ZANGABAL!
THIS IS THE TOPMOST ROOM OF THE TOWER!
THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM THIS.
HERE I MAKE MY STAND AND HERE --MAYHAP I DIE!
THEY PRESS ME BACK--
--BACK! UNTIL ONLY COLD STONE TOUCHES MY FLESH!

I'VE DRIVEN THEM BACK--MADE MYSELF A BREATHING SPACE, AND--
GORM!
THE STAR STONE!!
HIS HAND DARTS OUT--CLOSES ABOUT THAT JAGGED METAL! AND AS IF HIS SAGGING ENERGIES WERE RENEWED BY THAT STAR-KISSED METEORITE--HIS EYES BLAZE WITH SAVAGE FURY!
I'VE GOT IT NOW--
--AND NOTHING IS GOING TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM ME!
ONE SIDE, YOU SPAWN OF THE DARK LORDS!
THONGOR WOULD GO FORWARD!
MUST GET AWAY--
--MAKE SURE SHARAJSHA GETS HIS STAR STONE!
FROM IT HE MUST FORGE A GOD-BLADE LIKE THAT WITH WHICH THUNGARTH SLEW THE DRAGON KINGS!
NOTHING ELSE MATTERS!
THAT WILL HOLD THE STONE!
NOW TO GRASP THE CABLE MYSELF--AND BE LIFTED TO THE FLOATER.
THEN--SLIMY COILS GRASP AND TWIST ABOUT HIS ANKLES!...
THE SLORGS!
THEY HOLD ME FAST!
I CANNOT PULL FREE OF--THEIR GRIP!

SLOWLY HE IS DRAGGED BACKWARD INSIDE THE SCARLET TOWER...
TOO MANY OF THEM!
THEY HAMPER MY SWORD-ARM.
THEY SMOTHER ME WITH THE WEIGHT OF THEIR BODIES--
--AGAINST WHICH EVEN MY MIGHTY MUSCLES ARE USELESS!
BATTERED HALF INTO INSENSIBILITY, THE VALIANT VALKARTHAN IS DRAGGED BEFORE THE SARK OF TSARGOL, DRUGUNDA THAL AND THE ARCHDRUID HIMSELF, YELIM PELORVIS...
HE STOLE THE STAR STONE, DRUGUNDA THAL!
HE MUST TELL US WHERE HE HID IT!
AYE! SPEAK, BARBARIAN.
SPEAK, FILTH OF VALKARTH!
WHERE IS THE STAR STONE?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THE SACRED TALISMAN?
YOU WILL TALK WHEN THE SARK COMMANDS!
SWAK!
BATTLE FURY BLAZES INSIDE THE NORTHLANDER..
NO MAN CAN COMPEL THONGOR TO SPEAK--
--WHEN HE WOULD BE SILENT!
KRAK!

STOP THAT MAN!
HE WOULD KILL YOUR SARK!
FROM BEHIND, THE FLAT OF A SWORD FALLS WITH A DULL SOUND.
THUD!
AND NOT EVEN THE MASSIVELY-MUSCLED FRAME OF THE VALKARTHAN CAN THROW OFF THAT BLOW!
OFF WITH HIM, FOOLS! TAKE HIM TO THE ARENA!
MY LORD! WE MUST FIND THE STAR STONE.
IF HE DIES IN THE ARENA, WE MAY NEVER DO SO!
DRUGUNDA THAL RULES IN TSARGOL!
TO THE PITS WITH HIM!
AT HIGH NOON, HE FACES MY PETS--AND SOON HE WILL PLEAD TO BE SLAIN QUICKLY.
AND IN THE PITS...
WHAT CRIME PUT YOU HERE, OTAR?
I--KARM KARVUS--AM IN DISGRACE.
I COMMANDED THE PALACE GUARD WHEN YOU THREATENED THE SARK.
I'M SORRY. I MEANT ONLY TO AVOID TORTURE BY FIGHTING.
NO MATTER. THE SARK HATES MY FAMILY.
I AM A PRINCE IN TSARGOL. WERE IT NOT FOR DRUGUNDA THAL, I MIGHT BE SARK MYSELF.

AT HIGH NOON, AS TRUMPETS BLARE...
NO WEAPON MAY HELP YOU WHEN THE GATE OF DEATH LIFTS!
AT LEAST THEY GAVE ME BACK MY VALKARTHAN BLADE!
FOR WE ARE TO MEET--THE TERROR OF THE ARENA ITSELF!
A GIRL!
AYE! SHE IS TO BE THE SACRIFICE!
OUR DUTY IS TO SAVE HER-- IF WE CAN.
THE GATE OF DEATH OPENS...
CROM!
WHAT IS THAT THING?
A VERY RARE ZEMADAR - THE SARK'S FAVORITE KILLER!
BY THE NINETEEN GODS!
THAT THING IS A WORTHY OPPONENT!
HUH!
ITS SCALES TURN EVEN MY STEEL!
AND ITS BODY IS COVERED COMPLETELY WITH SCALES!



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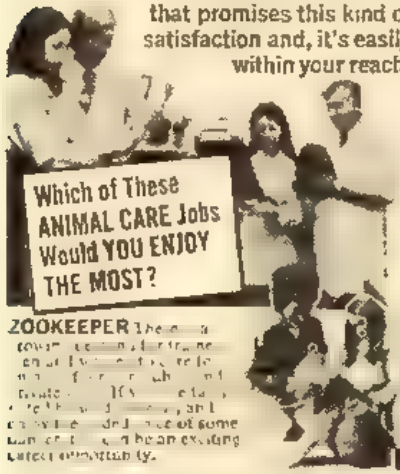


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I HEAR, THONGOR!
NOW FOR ITS-- OTHER EYE!
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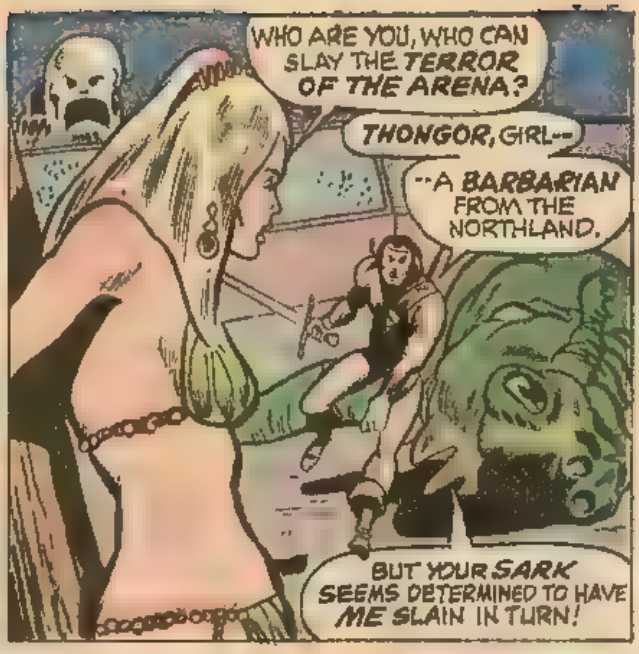
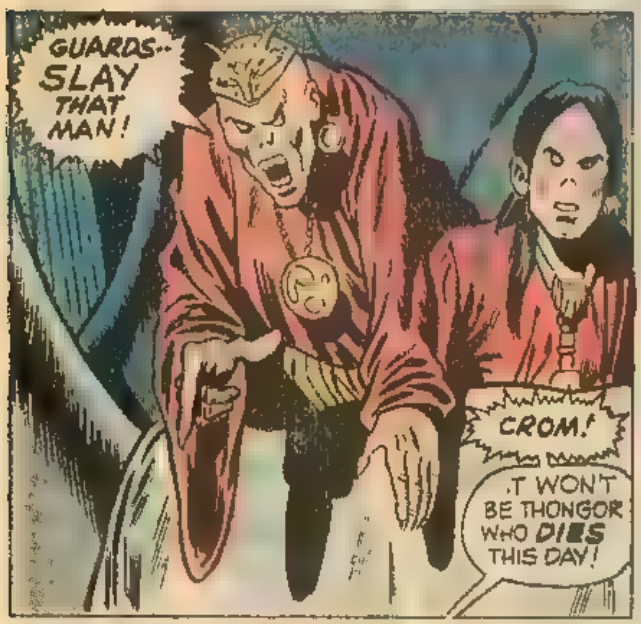
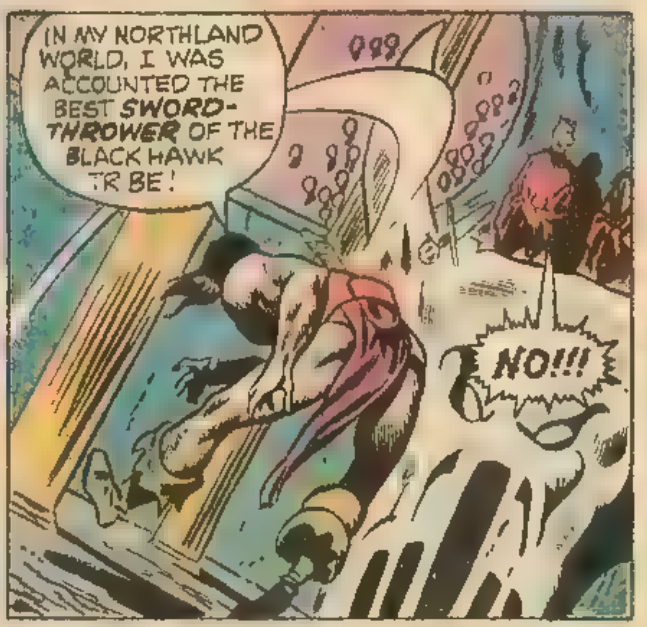
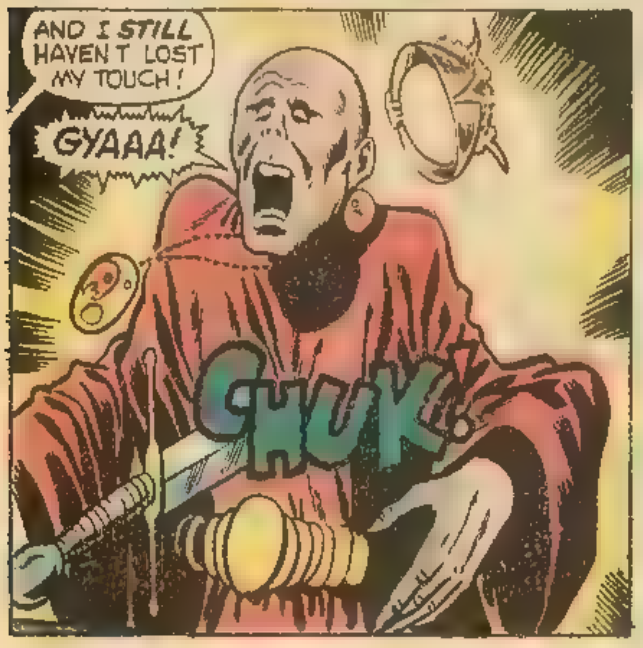
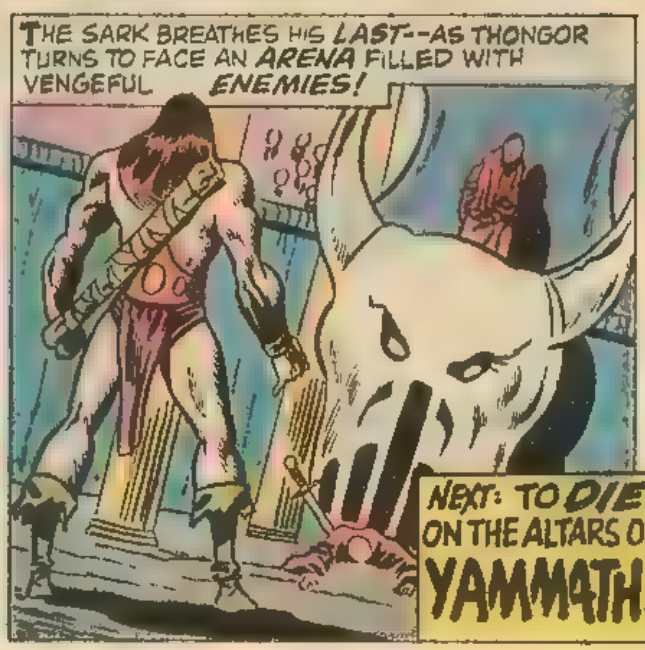
COLD STEEL STRIKES HOME!
BY THE GODS OF NEMEDIS!
I THINK WE'VE DONE IT!
THWIK!


WHO ARE YOU, WHO CAN SLAY THE TERROR OF THE ARENA?
THONGOR, GIRL--
--A BARBARIAN FROM THE NORTHLAND.
BUT YOUR SARK SEEMS DETERMINED TO HAVE ME SLAIN IN TURN!


GUARDS-- SLAY THAT MAN!
CROM!
.T WON'T BE THONGOR WHO DIES THIS DAY!


IN MY NORTHLAND WORLD, I WAS ACCOUNTED THE BEST SWORD-THROWER OF THE BLACK HAWK TR BE!
NO!!!


AND I STILL HAVEN T LOST MY TOUCH!
GYAAA!
CHUK!


THE SARK BREATHES HIS LAST--AS THONGOR TURNS TO FACE AN ARENA FILLED WITH VENGEFUL ENEMIES!
NEXT: TO DIE ON THE ALTARS OF YAMMATH!

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Fisheries Technician
Fish Hatcheryman
Fish Culturist

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[illegible] Area Manager
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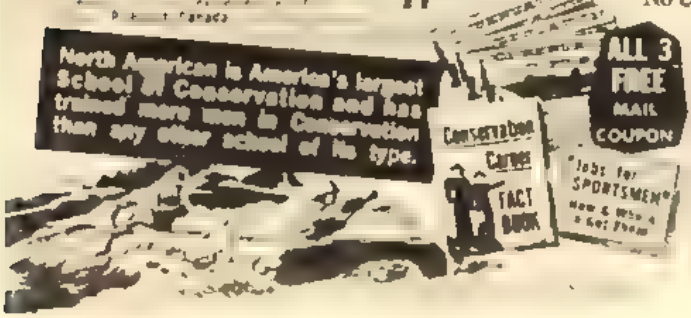


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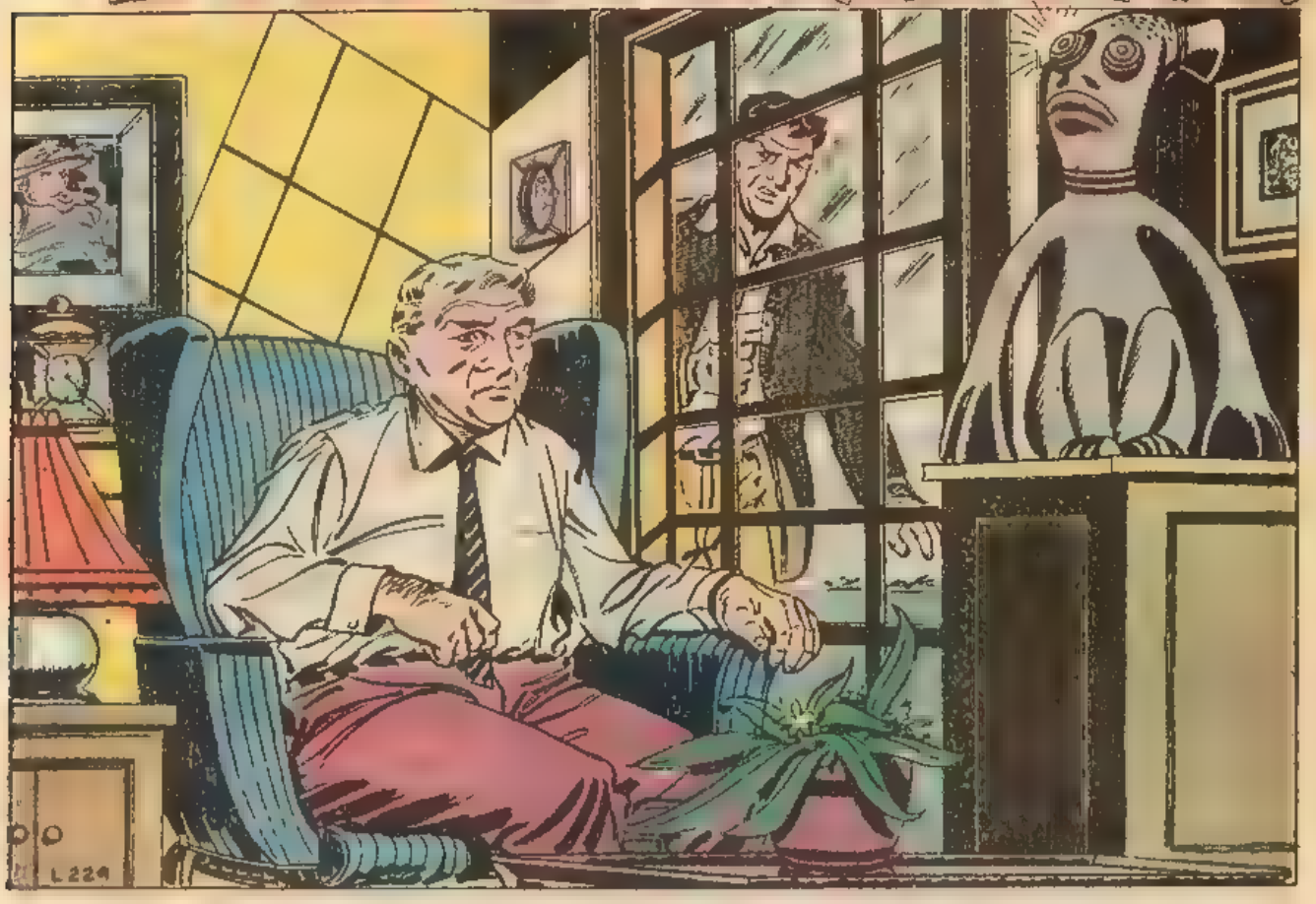
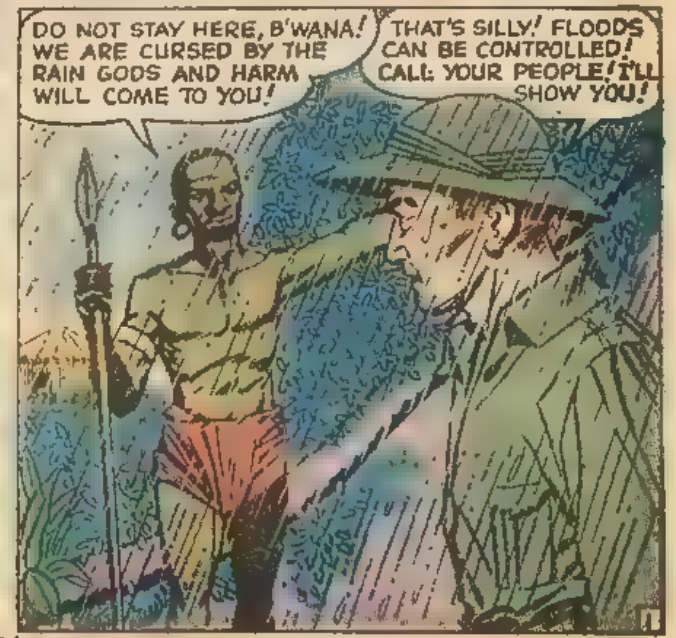
THE OLD MAN IS ALONE IN HIS MANSION.. HE IS WEALTHY AND HE IS HELPLESS WITH AGE! BUT, OUTSIDE LURKS A PROWLER IN THE NIGHT.. READY TO STRIKE, READY TO ROB HIM OF HIS DEAREST POSSESSION.' AND THE ONLY GUARDIAN OF THE OLD MAN IS...

# The EYES OF MALA-TOR

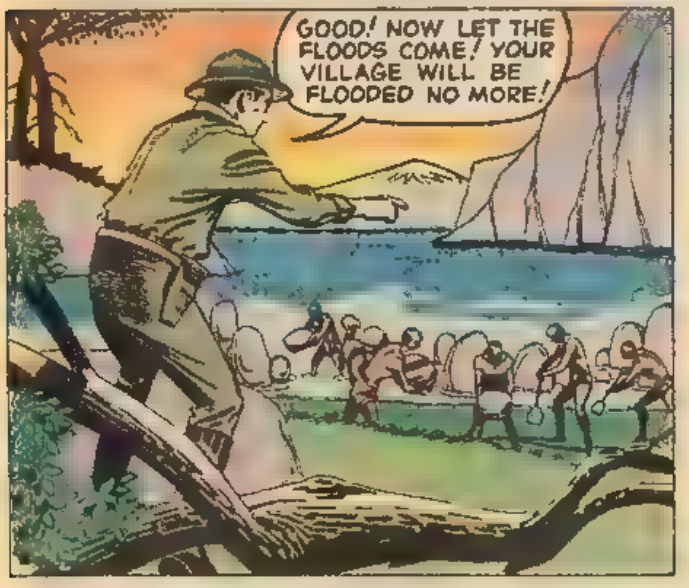


THIS MAN HADN'T ALWAYS BEEN OLD AND WEALTHY! ONCE HE HAD BEEN YOUNG... AND POOR... AND IN DEEPEST AFRICA, WHERE HE SEARCHED FOR DIAMONDS..

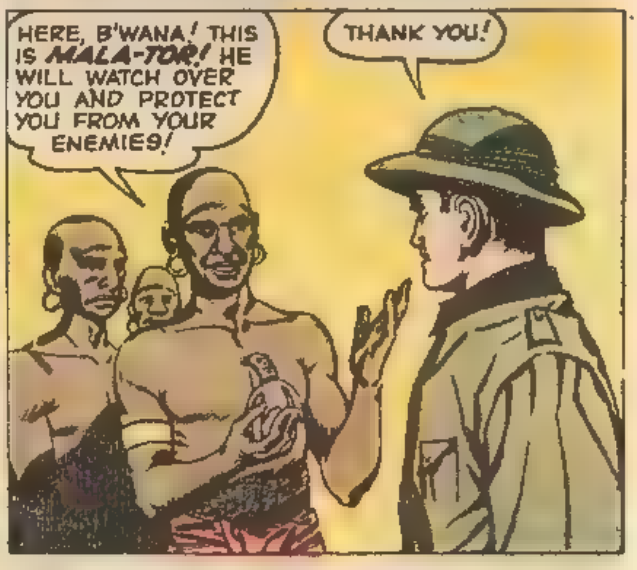
IT WAS A VILLAGE BESET BY TROUBLES... FOR THE ANNUAL HEAVY RAINS HAD ALWAYS FLOODED IT AND RUINED THE PEOPLE'S LIVES FOR THE COMING YEAR... AND THE FLOODS WERE ABOUT TO BEGIN AGAIN!


DO NOT STAY HERE, B'WANA! WE ARE CURSED BY THE RAIN GODS AND HARM WILL COME TO YOU!
THAT'S SILLY! FLOODS CAN BE CONTROLLED! CALL YOUR PEOPLE! I'LL SHOW YOU!

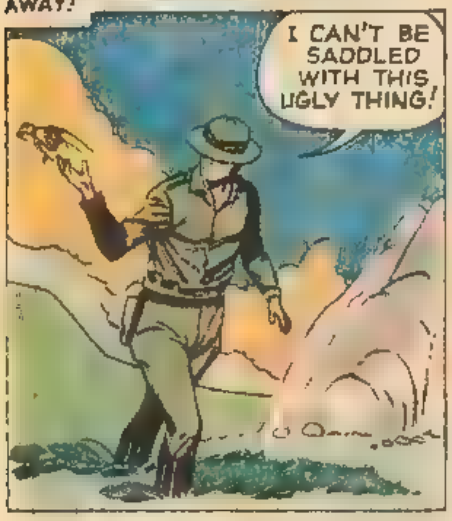
HE SHOWED THEM HOW TO DAM UP THE RIVER AND DIG CANALS TO DIVERT THE OVERFLOW...




THERE CAME THE TIME, THEN, WHEN HE HAD TO LEAVE AND GO ON HIS WAY...AND THE GRATEFUL VILLAGERS DECIDED TO REWARD HIM...




HE DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF THE STRANGE STATUE OF MALA-TOR, BUT TOOK IT, SO AS NOT TO INSULT THE NATIVES! AND THEN, ON HIS WAY THROUGH THE JUNGLE, HE THREW IT AWAY!




BUT WHERE THE STATUE LANDED, IT UNEARTHED A GLOWING SPARK!

AND SO HE BECAME WEALTHY/ TIME PASSED AND HE ALSO BECAME AGED/ BUT THE STATUE OF MALA-TOR WAS ALWAYS WITH HIM...WATCHING OVER HIM AND THIS IS WHAT IT SAW..

ALL RIGHT, MISTER... WHERE DO YOU KEEP YOUR VALUABLES?
TAKE ANYTHING YOU WANT...BUT PLEASE DON'T TAKE THE STATUE OF MALA-TOR! TAKE ANYTHING BUT THAT!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

# CAPRICIOUS COMMENTARIES, CAREFULLY COOKED UP TO CONFUSE AND CONFOUND YOU! (Or: Just When You Least Expected It—The Mighty Marvel Checklist's Back in Town!)

**ITEM!** Know what, friend and neighbor? It's been a good summer—at least from mirthful Marvel's point of view! What with presenting the fifth and sixth of our giant-sized mags to the waiting world (that's SAVAGE TALES and something called CRAZY Magazine, for those of you who haven't been counting), plus the birth of such super-stars as Brother Voodoo (in the pages of the new STRANGE TALES), the Son of Satan (in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT), and Satana (in VAMPIRE TALES #2)—not to mention a couple of regular series at least for the ever-lovin' blue-eyed Thing (in MARVEL FEATURE) and the long-suffering Black Panther (in JUNGLE ACTION, no less)—we sorta feels it's been a mighty Marvel summer all the way!

**ITEM!** Lest you suspect, however, that Marvel's brain-trust intend to start hibernating come the fall, this might be the place to clue you in that the next few weeks will see the dynamic debut of a new comic-mag called—FU MANCHU. Not only that, but this most famous of mystic menaces has a son these days—an awesome offspring who's mastered the martial arts of judo, karate—and *kung fu!* More details next time around, culture-lover!

**MARVELOUS MARVEL MINI-ITEMS:** Wait'll you catch the great AVENGERS/DEFENDERS free-for-all now going on in the pages of *both* these best-selling titles! When scripter STEVE ENGLEHART plans a knock-down drag-out, he does it up right—and SAL BUSCEMA and BOB BROWN are right in there to keep the action coming! • We're expecting big things, likewise, from the great new team of ROY THOMAS and MIKE PLOOG in the pages of KULL THE DESTROYER! That's right—King Kull's mag has a new name—and when you pick up a copy, you'll see *why!* • Hey, don't miss the dramatic changes, too, in our sensational SUB-MARINER book! If you thought there was nothing new under the sea that could happen to Namor after so many moons on the scene—check out the next few issues and learn how wrong a Keeper of the Flame can be! • Oh yes, and for those vociferous zillions of you who've been clamoring for it, our chortle-filled *Checklist* returns this selfsame month! And so, without further ado about anything—

**MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST**
Color Comics Now On Sale!

**FANTASTIC FOUR #140:** The return of Annihilus—plus more of the startling secret of Franklin B. Richards! A must!

**SPIDER-MAN #126:** Remember the high-stepping Kangaroo? Well, Spidey'd better—or he'll never live long enough to take a refresher course!

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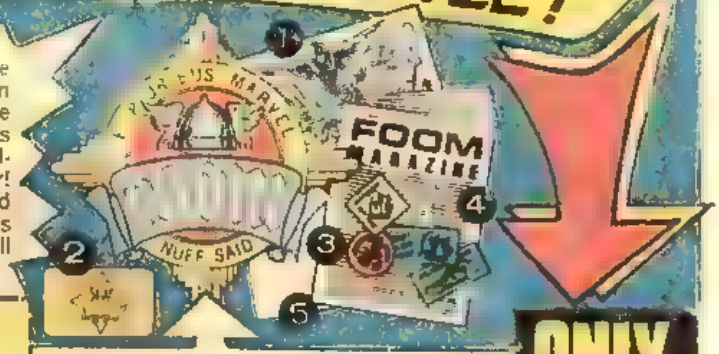


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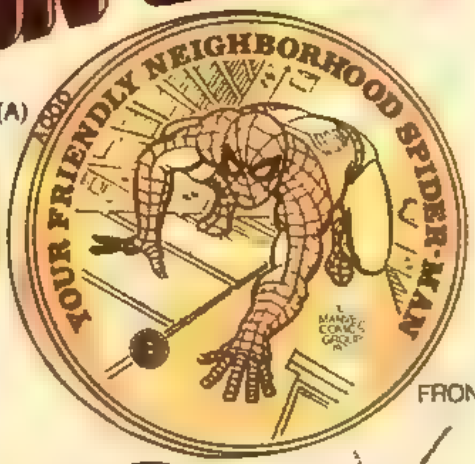


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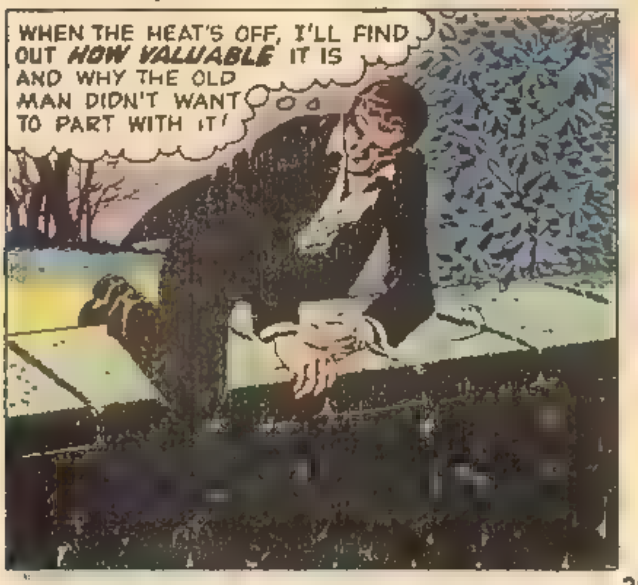
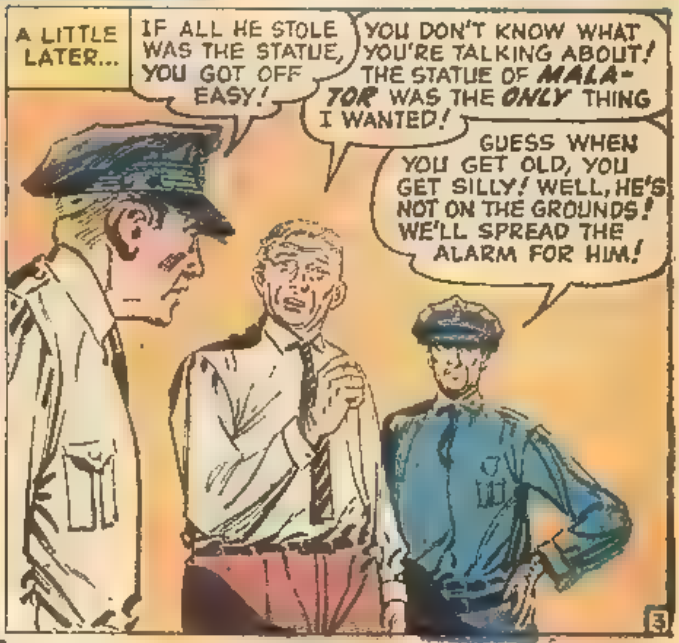
*NO! NO! YOU CAN'T!*

BUT THE WINDOW HAD A BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEM, AND WHEN THE PROWLER REACHED THE YARD, HE HEARD THE SCREECH OF SIRENS!

AND SO, NO LONGER ENCUMBERED BY *MALATOR*, HE MADE HIS GETAWAY...





A LITTLE LATER...
IF ALL HE STOLE WAS THE STATUE, YOU GOT OFF EASY!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! THE STATUE OF *MALATOR* WAS THE *ONLY* THING I WANTED!
GUESS WHEN YOU GET OLD, YOU GET SILLY! WELL, HE'S NOT ON THE GROUNDS! WE'LL SPREAD THE ALARM FOR HIM!
3

SO WHILE THE POLICE LOOKED ELSEWHERE FOR THE PROWLER, HE RETURNED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
NOW TO GET THE STATUE OF MALA-TOR, AND...
WHAT'S THAT?
THE TREE! IT'S TURNED INTO THE STATUE! NO! NO!
HELP! IT'S GRABBED ME! HELP ME... SOMEBODY!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S MALA-TOR!
THE TREE IS SHAPED LIKE THE STATUE!
RELEASE HIM, MALA-TOR! THE POLICE WILL HANDLE HIM!
DIG AT THE FOOT OF THE TREE AND YOU'LL FIND YOUR STATUE! I DON'T WANT IT! IT'S POISON!
TO YOU IT IS... AND TO ALL OTHERS WHO TRY TO HARM THE OWNER OF MALA-TOR!
THE END

# CREATURE FEATURES

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Dear Stan,

"Great!" Is the only word that I can say for CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #23. I have long been a fanatic reader of KULL THE CONQUEROR and CONAN THE BARBARIAN, and I think THONGOR is a great addition to your list of comics. The story was great. Congratulate your staff for me. In your sword and sorcery books I look at the action, story, and weaponry. Who thought of Thongor's sword? It's great. Keep going.

John Celba
223 Albans Rd.
Mudelien, Ill. 60660

**Keep going? We will, John—we will! In fact, with our kind of deadlines, we've practically forgotten how to stop!**

**Anyway, thanks for the kind words about THONGOR. And as for who designed our Valkarthan warrior's sword...we suspect artist Val Mayerik is responsible for the artistic conception, based on descriptions culled from Lin Carter's original THONGOR stories. (How 'bout that! A straight answer! Now, if only we could be certain we were right...!)**

Dear Sundries,

THONGOR is a fitting piece of work to follow "Warrior of Mars" epic. Val Mayerik is, in my opinion, your best new artist. The entire issue was pure joy. George Alec Effinger, scripter, continues his good work on the Gulliver Jones book. The Valiant One's inks fit beautifully. The lettering was great, the coloring beautiful. But of course, there was a flaw! (Isn't there always?)

"Gorm!" (Is that "Crom" spelled sideways?) That's right, Piglet used "Gorm" nine times in that story. Isn't there any other expletive he can use? How about "Holey Moley"? Or "Golly Gosh, Gee Whiz!"?

Peter Cucich

**So ya don't like "Gorm", huh, Pete? Okay, let's see what else is available...**

**Conan has pretty much staked out "Crom!" and "Mitra!" for himself. And, of course, "Valka!" is King Kull's exclusive property. And "Great Scott!", "By the bristling beard of Odin!", "By Neptune!", "Shades of the Seraphim!", "Suffering Sappho!", "Hala!", "Great Krypton!", and "Genes of Agon!" have all been snapped up by one character or another.**

**That leaves us with two choices: "Gorm!" or "Oh, darn it!".**

**We'll stick with good ol' Gorm.**

Dear Roy, George, Alec, Val, and Vince,

I've been looking over your THONGOR efforts for a couple of months, and I couldn't figure out why I didn't like the series as much as I liked CONAN and KULL. But, after re-reading CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #22 and 23 ... I found out! Its those &##!%!! sound effects and thought balloons! This also explains why I didn't enjoy "Brak The Barbarian" in CHAMBER OF CHILLS a few months back! And Roy, you ain't getting away with this either! In MONSTERS UNLEASHED #1 ... at long last, there is a Solomon Kane story marred only by a senseless sound effect! But I have been unfair to the "Whoom!" "Skolp!" "Foom!" (free plug) lovers of Marveldom. Look gang, I love the sounds in superhero mags, but I've been spoiled by CONAN and KULL! Maybe there's a reason for sound effects in THONGOR, Brak, and Kane (Solomon, not Gil) so, can you clue us in? (It's earth-shattering things like this that is keeping the world awake!)

B. Lash
1742 Hendrikson St.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234

**The only explanation we can offer for including the sound effects and thought balloons in THONGOR, B., is that for some unknown reason ... they seemed appropriate. Of course, if enough other readers feel as you do, that they intrude rather than enhance, we'll be happy to discontinue the practice. Opinions, people?**

**Incidentally, when we asked Thongor's new mouthpiece, Tony Isabella, if he planned to use sound effects, his cryptic reply was: "Thoom clud, ba-doom zak lunga krrrack bzoww Cleveland." (What hangs us up is... most of the Bullpen seemed to understand him!!)**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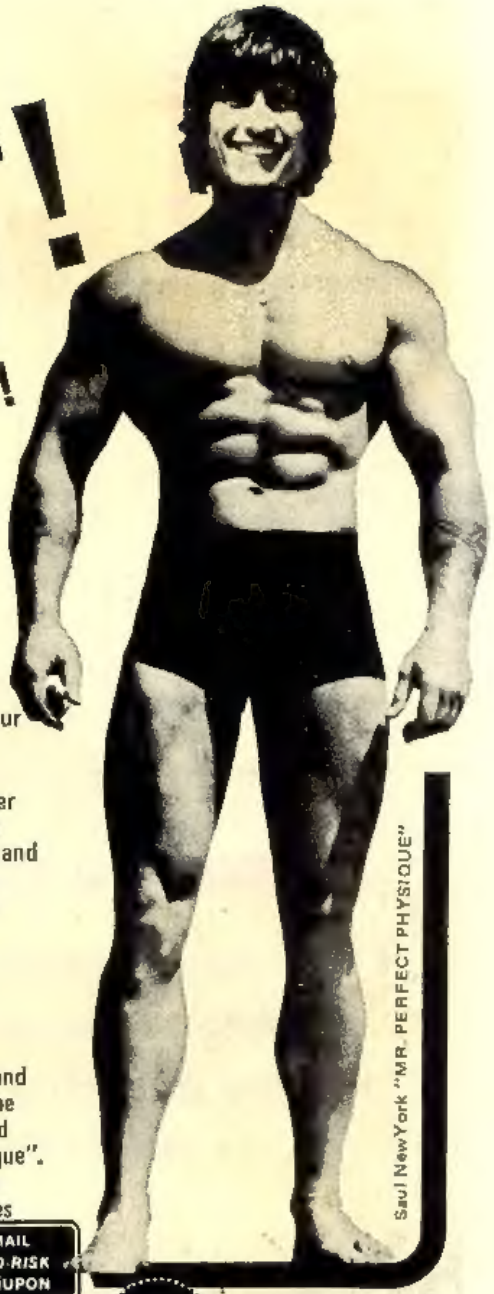

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